



## Selected James Madison Quotes:

If Tyranny and Oppression come to this land, it will be in the guise of fighting a foreign enemy.

The rights of persons, and the rights of property, are the objects, for the protection of which Government was instituted.

There is no maxim, in my opinion, which is more liable to be **misapplied**, and which, therefore, more needs elucidation, than the current one, that the interest of the majority is the political standard of right and wrong.

As a man is said to have a right to his property, he may be equally said to have a property in his rights.

By rendering the labor of one, the property of the other, they cherish pride, luxury, and vanity on one side; on the other, vice and servility, or hatred and revolt.

The personal right to acquire property, which is a natural right, gives to property, when acquired, a right to protection, as a social right.

A man has a property in his opinions and the free communication of them.

A popular government without popular information or the means of acquiring it, is but a prologue to a farce, or a tragedy, or perhaps both.

Liberty may be endangered by the abuse of liberty, but also by the abuse of power.

We are right to take alarm at the first experiment upon our liberties.

A well regulated militia, composed of the body of the people, trained in arms, is the best most natural defense of a free country.

Americans have the right and advantage of being armed - unlike the citizens of other countries whose governments are afraid to trust the people with arms.

I believe there are more instances of the abridgement of freedom of the people by gradual and silent encroachments by those in power than by violent and sudden usurpations.

It will be of little avail to the people that the laws are made by men of their own choice if the laws be so voluminous that they cannot be read, or so incoherent that they cannot be understood.

The means of defense against foreign danger historically have become the instruments of tyranny at home.

War should only be declared by the authority of the people, whose toils and treasures are to support its burdens, instead of the government which is to reap its fruits.

Knowledge will forever govern ignorance; and a people who mean to be their own governors must arm themselves with the power which knowledge gives.